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MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION

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CYCLE SAFETY INFO

Motorcycle Statistics—1981

Motorcycle accidents decreased by one percent and fatalities declined five percent from 1980 to 1981, according to statistics collected by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and the American Motorcyclist Association. Figures are obtained directly from all 50 states and the District of Columbia; estimates are provided when actual figures are not available.

The total number of motorcycle accidents in 1981 was 175,022—2,138 less than in 1980. Motorcycle accidents have risen an average of approximately 6,600 per year over the past ten years. The ratio of accidents per 10,000 registrations stabilized at 311.52 in 1981.

While the total number of motorcycle accidents decreased by one percent in 1981, motorcyclist fatalities decreased by five percent to 4,844. This is the first decrease in fatal accidents reported since 1975. Over the past ten years motorcyclist fatalities have risen by an average of 226 per year.

The ratio of motorcycle fatalities per 10,000 registered motorcycles dropped by four percent—from 8.97 in 1980 to 8.62 in 1981. The ratio of motorcycle fatalities per 100 motorcycle accidents also decreased by four per-

cent to 2.77 in 1981. This is the first time since 1976 a decrease has occurred in this accident severity indicator.

In 1981, 5,618,336 motorcycles were registered in the United States, 63,143 less than in 1980. Motorcycle registrations have increased by 70 percent since 1971, when there were 3,307,408. Registrations have risen an average of approximately 232,000 motorcycles per year for the past 10 years.

ABOUT THE DATA

In making use of this data, keep in mind that some of the figures are MSF/AMA estimates, since some states didn't have accident figures available. Other figures provided by the states include vehicles besides motorcycles, such as mopeds, motorized tricycles or even snowmobiles. The amount of property damage necessary to have an accident show up in a police report varies from state to state. Accidents with only minor property damage often are not recorded at all.

ACCIDENT REDUCTION MEASURES

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation, the American Motorcyclist Association and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration support the concepts of motorcycle rider education and quality licensing programs as motorcycle accident countermeasures. MSF and AMA also urge the voluntary use of helmets and other protective clothing to reduce injuries when an accident does occur.

In 1981, nearly 48,000 students throughout the United States graduated from rider education courses either meeting or exceeding MSF classroom, range and curriculum requirements.

A federally funded research study in California has already shown the accident reducing potential of improved licensing and training. Results of the study showed a 15 to 21 percent reduction in motorcycle accidents for operators completing the comprehensive testing program.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation's purpose is improving the safety of motorcyclists on the nation's streets and highways. To reduce motorcycle accidents and injuries the Foundation has programs in rider education, licensing improvement, public information and research. These programs are designed for both motorcyclists and motorists. A national, private, nonprofit organization, MSF is sponsored by the five leading motorcycle manufacturers: Honda, Yamaha, Kawasaki, Suzuki and Harley-Davidson.

The American Motorcyclist Association is a nonprofit service and activity organization whose purpose is to pursue, promote and protect the interests of motorcyclists. Through its government relations and communications department, the AMA prepares news releases, makes public appearances and educates America's legislators about the realities of motorcycling. The AMA also offers individual members a monthly magazine and the opportunity to participate in annual road and competition events.



1981 NATIONAL AND STATE STATISTICS

		Registrations	Reported Accidents	Accidents Per 10,000 Registrations	Fatalities	Fatalities Per 10,000 Registrations	Fatalities Per 100 Accidents
<i>National</i>							
	1971	3,307,408	108,892	329.24	2,579	7.80	2.37
	1976	4,971,290	150,583	302.90	3,330	6.70	2.24
	1981	5,618,336	175,022	311.52	4,844	8.62	2.77
<i>State Data—1981</i>							
Alabama (1,6,15,20)		75,220	2,738*	364.00	52	6.91	1.90
Alaska (2,11,15,20)		8,888	308	346.54	8	9.00	2.60
Arizona (12,16,20)		86,216	4,168	483.44	120	13.92	2.88
Arkansas (2,10,15,20)		30,388	1,089	358.36	40	13.16	3.67
California (1,13,15,20)		731,310	29,387	401.84	775	10.60	2.64
Colorado (1,10,15,20)		121,510*	3,640	299.56	84	6.91	2.31
Connecticut (12,15,20)		80,470	3,341*	415.19	85	10.56	2.54
Delaware (10,15,20)		8,348	366	438.43	8	9.58	2.19
District of Columbia (1,4,13,15,20)		5,768	388	672.68	8	13.87	2.06
Florida (1,7,15,20)		225,441	12,378	549.06	260	11.53	2.10
Georgia (1,2,10,16,19)		112,517	3,588*	318.88	136*	12.09	3.79
Hawaii (5,11,15,20)		10,700	552	515.89	13	12.15	2.35
Idaho (2,10,15,20)		55,975	847	151.32	25	4.47	2.95
Illinois (1-5,10,15,20)		305,727	7,923	259.15	209	6.84	2.64
Indiana (1,9,15,20)		172,574	4,604	266.78	113	6.55	2.45
Iowa (1,10,15,20)		233,172	2,950	126.52	74	3.17	2.51
Kansas (1,11,15,20)		140,677	2,279	162.00	71	5.05	3.11
Kentucky (5,9,15,20)		65,000*	1,672	257.23	54	8.31	3.23
Louisiana (13,18,19)		75,000*	2,957	394.27	101	13.47	3.42
Maine (5,11,16,20)		39,857	1,113	279.25	34	8.53	3.05
Maryland (5,14,15,20)		80,289	1,999	248.98	49	6.10	2.45
Massachusetts (5,12,15,20)		100,369	4,200*	418.45	75	7.47	1.79
Michigan (5,9,15,20)		243,858	6,261	256.70	146	5.87	2.33
Minnesota (5,12,15,20)		166,151	3,063	184.35	96	5.78	3.13
Mississippi (4,10,15,20)		29,273	597	203.94	38	12.98	6.36
Missouri (1-5,12,15,20)		142,488	2,766	194.12	63	4.42	2.28
Montana (1,5,7,15,20)		35,470	656	184.94	24	6.76	3.66
Nebraska (1,3,10,15,19)		50,371	1,441	286.08	38*	7.54	2.64
Nevada (3,14,15,20)		21,008	1,150	547.41	16	7.62	1.39
New Hampshire (5,14,15,20)		43,462	1,170*	269.20	40*	9.20	3.42
New Jersey (10,16,20)		106,753*	4,072*	381.44	96*	8.99	2.36
New Mexico (5,7,15,20)		52,810	2,053	388.75	46	8.71	2.24
New York (3,12,15,19)		160,619	7,899	491.78	206	12.82	2.61
North Carolina (5,9,15,20)		118,156*	2,805	254.64	91	8.26	3.24
North Dakota (12,15,20)		31,115	445	143.02	12	3.86	2.70
Ohio (8,15,20)		185,678*	7,668	412.97	199	10.72	2.60
Oklahoma (4,11,15,20)		129,704*	2,090*	161.14	98*	7.56	4.69
Oregon (9,15,20)		92,316	1,451*	157.18	69	7.47	4.75
Pennsylvania (13,15,20)		190,480*	5,312	278.87	162	8.50	3.05
Rhode Island (1,13,15,20)		23,789*	501*	210.60	17*	7.15	3.39
South Carolina (13,16,19)		42,257	1,934	457.68	45	10.65	2.33
South Dakota (2,12,15,20)		38,265	697	182.15	13	3.40	1.86
Tennessee (1-4,9,15,20)		83,179	2,868	344.80	96	11.54	3.35
Texas (1-4,10,15,20)		300,330*	12,629	420.50	442	14.72	3.50
Utah (1,12,15,20)		66,653*	1,332*	199.84	47*	7.05	3.53
Vermont (1,9,15,20)		29,449*	491*	166.73	19*	6.45	3.87
Virginia (14,15,20)		87,951	2,527	287.32	87	9.89	3.44
Washington (11,15,20)		139,931	3,728	266.42	101	7.22	2.71
West Virginia (1-5,10,16,19)		37,680	289	76.70	19	5.04	6.57
Wisconsin (1,12,15,20)		190,961	4,264	223.29	110	5.76	2.58
Wyoming (1,10,15,20)		20,763*	376*	181.09	14*	6.74	3.72

* Estimates

Footnotes

Registrations:

1. Includes mopeds or motorized cycles
2. Includes mopeds and "similar vehicles"
3. Includes tricycles
4. Includes mopeds, tricycles and scooters
5. Other

Accidents—Damage Threshold:

6. \$0-\$25-\$50 property damage threshold
7. \$100 property damage threshold
8. \$150 property damage threshold

Accidents—Description:

9. \$200 property damage threshold
10. \$250 property damage threshold
11. \$300 property damage threshold
12. \$400-\$500 property damage threshold
13. No property damage figure specified
14. Other
15. Accident listed as "property damage, personal injury or fatality"
16. Accident listed as "any reported motorcycle accident"

17. Only records accidents investigated by State Highway Patrol
18. Other

Fatalities:

19. Number of fatal accidents in which a motorcycle was involved
20. Number of motorcyclists and passengers fatally injured in a motorcycle accident